

Dmitriy Fedorovich USTINOV
(Phonetic: ooSTEEuf)

11 AUG 1958

Minister of Defense; Member,
Politburo, Central Committee,
Communist Party of the Soviet
Union (since 1976)

Addressed as:
Mr. Minister



A veteran manager of the Soviet armaments and space programs, Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov became a full member of the CPSU Politburo in March 1976 and Minister of Defense one month later. As Defense Minister he serves on the Defense Council, the principal national security organ, which approves military doctrine, plans, and programs and is the main locus of decisionmaking on arms control, foreign military assistance, and the use of military forces. [redacted]

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Arms Control and Foreign Policy

Ustinov is well versed on strategic arms limitations, and his views on the subject presumably carry considerable weight. His public statements on arms control and detente have consistently followed the party line: he has expressed Soviet determination to pursue detente, eliminate the possibility of nuclear war, and successfully conclude the SALT and MBFR negotiations. He has also specifically denied any Soviet intention to attain superiority in armaments. At the same time, he has noted that the Soviet armed forces are in a high state of preparedness, that they possess the latest weaponry and military technology, and that they have the ability to counter any aggression. In July 1982, he claimed that while Soviet military doctrine is "exclusively defensive", it will not assume a "passive character." [redacted]

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Early Career

Ustinov graduated from the Leningrad Military Mechanical Academy in 1934. During World War II, he served as people's commissar for armaments, a position he continued to hold until 1953. Then, as a result of [redacted]

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